

# Public Health Assessment Technology Tools (PHATT)

## PROJECT SUMMARY: May 2006

PHATT is a joint project between DOH and LHJs to:

- Assess business needs of the public health system for IT tools to access, analyze and display data for the purpose of community health assessment
- Evaluate the alignment between business needs and two existing IT tools (Vista, EpiQMS)
- Develop recommendations for future development of IT tools to support the community health assessment function

DOH is supporting the development of two IT tools for community health assessment with similar functionality and intended use (Vista and EpiQMS). The current funding environment does not allow for continued development of two IT tools serving such similar purposes. To ensure the effective and efficient use of scarce public health resources, DOH and LHJs have joined together to set consensus priorities on future development of these tools.

The PHIP Key Health Indicators and Public Health Information Technology Committees formed a joint subcommittee in 2005 to oversee this project and develop recommendations for the future. The PHATT Advisory Committee is composed of 17 members (9 LHJ, 7 DOH, and 1 UW). Members represent assessment, IT, and senior management perspectives. The Advisory Committee was convened in October and will meet regularly throughout the project period.

A contractor, Ross and Associates, will be used to carry out the project. Primary objectives for the contract include:

- Identify public health's business needs for IT tools for community health assessment through telephone interviews with the public health workforce (in process)
- Determine mandatory attributes of IT tools for assessment through a web survey of the public health workforce (June 2006)
- Evaluate alignment of existing IT tools with mandatory attributes (July 2006)
- Determine cost/infrastructure requirements to align existing IT tools with mandatory attributes (August 2006)
- Recommend a future approach to development of IT tools for community health assessment (September 2006)

The PHATT Advisory Committee will use the contractor's analysis to develop final recommendations in September 2006.

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# Public Health Assessment Technology Tools Committee

NAME	AGENCY	TITLE
Roger Arango	Grant County Health District	Assessment Coordinator
Bobbie Berkowitz, Co-Chair	University of WA	Alumni Endowed Professor of Nursing
Joe Campo	DOH – Center for Health Statistics	Manager, Research Services
Ed Dzedzy	Lincoln County Health Dept.	Administrator
Dan Francis	DOH – Division of Information Resource Management	Application Resources Manager
Ward Hinds	Snohomish Health District	Health Officer
Scott Horn	Bremerton-Kitsap County Health District	Information Technology Specialist
Jeannie Knight	Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department	Epidemiologist
Mary Ann O’Garro	Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department	Epidemiologist
Riley Peters	DOH – Community and Family Health	Manager, Maternal and Child Health Assessment
Diane Pilkey	DOH – Community and Family Health	Research Investigator
David Solet	Public Health – Seattle and King County	Assistant Chief, Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation Unit
Jennifer Tebaldi, Co-Chair	DOH – EHSPHL/OAS	Director of Policy
Jim VanDerslice	DOH – Environmental Health	Senior Epidemiologist
Lyndia Vold	Spokane Regional Health District	Disease Prevention and Response Director
Paul Waterstrat	Okanogan County Health District	Administrator

## Committee Staff

Lavonda Phillips	DOH – EHSPHL/OAS	Secretary Administrative
Christie Spice	DOH – NICE	Community Assessment Liaison